

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2930

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (MRN 2930 VICE 2030)

EO 11652: XGDS4

TAGS: EFIN, EINV

SUBJ: VISIT TOMAS LACKINGTON

REF: SANTIAGO 2016

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY WISHES TO CHANGE PROGRAM OF PARTIAL GRANTEE TOMAS LACKINGTON TO CONFINE HIS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, AND TO MAKE ITS PURPOSE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF RELATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH CONGRESS. TIME FRAME THE SAME. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS LACKINGTON PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATION, BACKGROUND WHICH FAMILIAR TO ARA/BC (FIMBRES AND DRISCOLL) SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD. END SUMMARY.

2. TOMAS LACKINGTON, WHO AS ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO FONMIN, IS EQUIVALENT HIERARCHIACALLY TO U.S. UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, UTILIZED MUCH OF HIS LAST OFFICIAL TRIP TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES WITHIN EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND WITH INFLUENTIAL PERSONS IN CONGRESS, INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN HARRINGTON AND MEMBERS OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF. UPON HIS RETURN, LACKINGTON PREPARED REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT REFORMS BE MADE IN CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES SUFFICIENTLY FAR-REACHING AS TO NEUTRALIZE OPPOSITION OF AT LEAST MODERATE ELEMENTS IN CONGRESS TO
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ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR CHILE. HIS REPORT APPARENTLY HAD

AWAKENED INTEREST AMONG LEADING GOC CABINET MEMBERS INCLUDING FINMIN CAUAS AND FONMIN CARVAJAL, WHO WERE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND IT FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET. ADVERSE CHILEAN REACTION TO BEHAVIOR OF CODEL MOFFETT ABRUPTLY ENDED SUPPORT WHICH LACKINGTON WAS BUILDING. HE NOW ESTIMATES THAT ANOTHER THREE MONTHS WILL HAVE TO ELAPSE BEFORE HE CAN CREDIBLY REVIVE HIS EFFORTS.

3. IN MEANTIME, LACKINGTON BELIEVES THAT HIS EFFECTIVENESS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED WERE HE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH GREATER AUTHORITY ON POWER RELATIONSHIPS IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS. CHILEANS TEND TO BE CONFUSED BY THE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS THEY ARE RECEIVING, FOR EXAMPLE OF AN EXECUTIVE TRYING TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE, AND EFFORTS IN THE LEGISLATURE TO CUT IT DOWN. BUILDING ON THE CONTACTS ALREADY ESTABLISHED, LACKINGTON WANTS TO SPEND 10-12 DAYS IN DEPARTMENT AND WITH CONGRESS. PRESTIGE OF VISITOR GRANT, AND FOCUS OF HIS EFFORTS, WILL, HE BELIEVES, STRENGTHEN THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN HE SURFACES THEM AGAIN. LACKINGTON CLEARLY CANNOT DRAW ON GOC TRAVEL FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE AT THIS TIME.

4. EMBASSY IS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY LACKINGTON'S ABILITY AND PURPOSE. HE HAS PROVEN TO BE VERY HELPFUL TO US IN OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN. SHOULD HIS EFFORTS LEAD TO MATERIAL IMPROVEMENT IN CHILEAN PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, THAT WOULD AFFECT IN A FUNDAMENTAL WAY ALL OUR RELATIONS WITH CHILE. AT THE VERY LEAST, HIS EFFORTS ARE WORTH OUR SUPPORT. WE BELIEVE THIS NEW PROGRAM TO BE SOUNDLY CONCEIVED, AND VERY LIKELY TO ENHANCE HIS CREDIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS WITHIN THE GOC.
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